

awareness about the barrage of scams that individuals age 65 or older (referred to in this resolution as “seniors”) in the United States face in person, by mail, on the phone, via text message, and online;

(3) recognizes that law enforcement agencies, consumer protection groups, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in—

(A) preventing the proliferation of scams targeting seniors in the United States; and

(B) educating seniors about those scams;

(4) encourages—

(A) the implementation of policies to prevent scams targeting seniors; and

(B) the improvement of efforts to protect seniors from those scams; and

(5) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to fight against scams targeting seniors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 656—DESIGNATING MAY 2022 AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 656

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,778,000 individuals living in the United States were 65 years of age or older, approximately ⅓ of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, there were more than 55,847,953 individuals who were 65 years of age or older living in the United States, and those individuals accounted for 16.8 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas, during the COVID-19 pandemic—

(1) more than 743,016 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older have died due to COVID-19; and

(2) more than 200,000 residents and workers in long-term care facilities, including more than 154,000 in nursing homes, have succumbed to the virus;

Whereas approximately 11,150 individuals in the United States turn 65 years of age each day;

Whereas, in 2021, more than 8,868,000 veterans of the Armed Forces were 65 years of age or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help individuals in the United States who are 60 years of age or older maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 10,000,000 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, as local aging network leaders, Area Agencies on Aging are critical partners in the healthy aging continuum;

Whereas, in 2021, an estimated 6,634,000 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older continued to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to mentorship and civic engagement; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of older individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and well-being of older individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2022 as “Older Americans Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of the ongoing achievements of older individuals;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 657—DESIGNATING MAY 16, 2022, AS “OLDER AMERICANS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 657

Whereas May 2022 is both “Older Americans Month” and “Mental Health Awareness Month”;

Whereas the population of individuals age 56 or older increased from 39,600,000 in 2009 to 54,100,000 in 2019 and is projected to reach 94,700,000 in 2060;

Whereas 20 percent of older adults suffer from a mental health condition, such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or serious mental illness;

Whereas older adults had a higher risk of suicide compared to other age groups in 2020. In fact, during that year—

(1) individuals age 85 or older had the highest rate of suicide among all age groups; and

(2) individuals age 75 to 84 had the second highest rate of suicide among all age groups.

Whereas, according to the American Psychological Association, older adults underutilize mental health services because of service constraints, limited awareness, or a stigma surrounding mental health;

Whereas the opioid crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have negatively impacted the behavioral health of older adults;

Whereas aging could possibly lead to social and physical changes that may increase vulnerability to substance use disorders;

Whereas poor mental health and substance use disorders reduce life expectancy among

older adults and increase the risk of adverse health outcomes and conditions, such as heart disease, dementia, and diabetes;

Whereas mental health disorders for older adults, especially depression and anxiety, are major contributors to and exacerbate social isolation;

Whereas mental health diagnoses drive spending in the Medicare and Medicaid programs for an already high-cost population;

Whereas spending for individuals with a mental health disorder is more than twice that for individuals who are eligible for both such programs without such a diagnosis;

Whereas more than one-tenth of individuals age 65 or older binge drink, which is defined as drinking 5 or more drinks on the same occasion for men or 4 or more drinks on the same occasion for women; and

Whereas by 2030, the United States will need 5,790 more geropsychologists to meet the needs of older adults in the United States, highlighting the need for outreach to increase availability of trained specialists: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 16, 2022, as “Older Americans Mental Health Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes the unmet mental health and substance use disorder needs of older adults;

(3) recognizes the need for a robust mental health and substance use disorder workforce trained in the unique needs of older adults to screen, assess, and intervene as appropriate; and

(4) recognizes the need to advance bipartisan solutions to address the mental health needs and substance use disorder needs of older adults.

SENATE RESOLUTION 658—DESIGNATING JUNE 6, 2022, AS “CASA/ GAL VOLUNTEERS’ DAY”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 658

Whereas Court Appointed Special Advocate (referred to in this preamble as “CASA”) and Guardian ad Litem (referred to in this preamble as “GAL”) volunteers advocate nationwide for the best interests of children before courts in cases with allegations of abuse or neglect;

Whereas CASA and GAL volunteers advocate for the best interests of children by relying on guiding principles that recognize the importance of equity, diversity, inclusion, collaboration, and family preservation and reunification;

Whereas more than 216,000 children in the United States enter the foster care system, through no fault of their own, due to allegations of abuse or neglect and rely on adults to advocate on their behalf;

Whereas CASA and GAL volunteers, appointed by a judge—

(1) provide the court with the comprehensive and objective information the court needs to make the most well-informed decisions and help ensure positive outcomes for children, youth, and families; and

(2) take time to build meaningful and authentic relationships with such children, youth, and families;

Whereas research shows that when a CASA or GAL volunteer is assigned to a case, outcomes are strengthened for children and families, a higher number of services are ordered, and children are significantly less likely to reenter the child welfare system, perform better academically and behaviorally, and have higher levels of hope;